Vol. III. Numb. 9.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *December* 18, to Monday *December* 22, 1712.

——— *Non Deficit* alter. Virgil.

UPON the *doubling* my *Paper* it will, I presume, be expected from me, that I should give the World some Account of my Self, at least of this *other half* of me; what Measures I intend to take for the future, upon what Subjects I shall lay out my Labours, and what Character I propose to maintain.

I have reason to hope, that the good Affections of a vast majority of my Countrymen, whose Honesty is an undeniable Proof of their Judgment, will still go along with me; and Second such Efforts as I shall hereafter make, in order to quell the scatter'd Remains of a routed Enemy; who are once more rally'd and got together, under a few desperate Subalterns; the Sense of whose Guilt prompts them to believe, that they fight for their Lives and Liberties. I had the Honour to engage the *Party*, when they were in possession of the Field, grown wanton with a course of Victories, their Troops numerous and formidable, well-fed, well-disciplin'd, and Entrench'd up to the Chin. I battled it singly against their united Forces, tho' I knew they would give no Quarter, and did not scruple to use all Sorts of unfair Weapons, Stones, Staves and Stinkpots. What the Success has been, I need not, neither does it so well become me, to acquaint the *Reader:* And yet I will be so generous to own, that I did not come off unhurt: But I submit it to those who have taken a full View of my *Body*, whither some few dry Blows, and here and there the Skin ras'd, be not the worst that has befallen me. Better Success could not be expected, where a Man was in the midst of his Foes; whilst some were employ'd in attacking him before, and others thrusting at him behind, wherever they could find a thin unguarded Place in his Armour, capable of admitting their blunt Arms, whereby a Contusion at least follow'd, tho' no Blood. The Feather upon my Crest had now and then a slice; and some few slight Stroaks were aim'd at the extreme Parts: Even *Achilles* and the *King* of *Sweden* have been touch'd in the Heel. But as the worst of their Play was to cut the Laces of my Helmet, and leave me *bare-fac'd* and expos'd to open View, I took particular care to fight with my Beaver down, and, thanks to my Stars, they have not yet been able to put that Stratagem in execution.

They who have given so many Proofs of *delighting in War*, of some sort or other, Foreign or Domestick, Literal or Metaphorical, after their being disarm'd of the Sword and Musquet, will, I am persuaded, not be so easily prevail'd upon to lay down the Goose-quill. Let the Ink therefore that shall henceforward be shed, light upon the Heads of the Aggressors; for I shall not fail to meet them upon every Challenge and Provocation, and stand prepared to enter the Lists at the first Sound of the Trumpet. By which Defiance, I am not to be understood as matching my self with any Combatant less than an approved Champion, or obliged to Buckle on, till I hear that some Giant is gone up, or some Monster let loose to infest our Country. As for their *Moroders*, and *Powder-Monkeys* belonging to their Train, who are of no other Use but to wrap up a little Wild-fire in Paper, I shall take no manner of notice of them: I'd not keep a Horse that would start at the Report of their Small Arms. I shall consider them as so many *Squibs* and *Crackers*, which tho' they may singe a *Wig*, or blacken a *new Suit*, do yet serve to do Honour to a Conqueror, and to adorn his Entry.

But without an *Allegory*, I shall from time to time try to set my *Readers* right in their Notions of Parties. In the *Historical* Part of my *Paper*, I shall give the best Accounts I can of such Facts both at Home and Abroad, as it is for the good of the Publick to have our People fully inform'd of. When I enter upon *Controversy*, I shall Examine whatever Doctrines and Principles are broach'd from the Press, with a Design to Mislead and Corrupt us; and which, either by good Wit or specious Argument, may win Attention from the Unwary and Unskilful, debauch them in their Sentiments of Religion and Loyalty, by openly Assaulting, or secretly Undermining the Constitution in Church and State.

This Design, which has all along kept Company with my *Paper*, will in all probability lead me into a large Field of Matter, during the Run of the next Year; the Prospect of which, first induc'd me to *repeat* my Labours, and give them a *new* Weekly Date. For it is not easie to imagine, how many Incidents of surprizing Conduct, and how many National Blessings may croud and distinguish the ensuing Months; when all good Men and lovers of Peace have reason to hope, that a final Stop will be put to those Oppressions, Divisions and Calamities, under which we groan'd so long, and could not be freed from by the wisest Management, without Time and Deliberation; and that the Safety and Repose of *Europe*, and *Great Britain*, will be established upon solid and lasting Foundations.

My own Inclinations, and the nature of my Design agree to confine me altogether to *Things*, without troubling my self with *Persons*; but since there is, in the course of Publick Affairs, so close a Connexion between them, that one cannot possibly account for the former, without sometimes touching upon the latter; I shall comply with this Exception, no further than is necessary in order to do Justice to my Subject; without taking the least Advantage of those abominable Precedents for Scandal and Calumny, so profusely scattered up and down the Writings of the Faction; and which their Abettors so greedily catch at, as so many Beauties and Ornaments. I should do my self but little Honour by excusing a Slip of this nature from the Example of those, whom no Modesty nor good Manners, no regard for Men and Things, Sacred or Prophane, can put any restraint upon. It shall be my Rule not to meddle with a *Character*, till the publick Voice and course of Justice, till indisputable Notoriety, and the Panegyricks of the other side, who often admit such Faults as their way of Arguing can easily justify, are sufficient to give me Countenance, and back my Assertions. When *Satyr* is prov'd Unlawful, I shall readily desist: But in the mean time I expect the Benefit of those Allowances, by which the World is tempted not to speak very well of *Nero* or *Caligula*, tho' neither of those Men ever did us the least Injury.

If the Inſults and Provocations of the Faction do not come too thick upon me, I ſhall, with a great deal of Satisfaction, beſtow the better half of my Pains and Leiſure, in drawing Men's Minds off from *Parties*, as well as ſetting them Right, when they are under a Neceſſity of engaging in them. To this purpoſe, I ſhall conſider what Parts of the *Law* and the *Conſtitution* it may be proper and ſeaſonable to recommend to the Notice and Obſervation of my Fellow-Subjects: And if there be any thing in *Philoſophy*, or among the *Sciences*, which can be of uſe to the Publick, I ſhall make an Extract of it, with proper Remarks, and apply it as Opportunity directs.

I ever thought it a much Pleaſanter Task to *Recommend* than to *Cenſure*; and ſhall at any time be glad of an Occaſion to Introduce the Works of my Learned Contemporaries, and contribute to their juſt Value and Eſteem in the World. No Church or Nation upon Earth is, I believe, better furniſh'd with Men of *Genius* and Abilities to aſſert and defend our Conſtitution: When the happy Time is come, in which Arts revive and flouriſh, it is to be hoped, that many great Names may ſhine out, who are now in Obſcurity, retired and withdrawn from the Rage of Parties, and thoſe unnatural Feuds which Crumble and Diſtract us, but will ſoon exert themſelves, and Vindicate the Preſs from being made the common Vehicle of almoſt half our Modern Corruptions.

If any thing offers from the *beſt Advices beyond Sea*, from the preſent State of Foreign Courts, or the Laws, Commerce and Cuſtoms of thoſe Nations, which have any Intercourſe with *Great Britain*, I ſhall take notice of it, ſo far as I can make it ſerve to the Good of my Country.

I may alſo find leiſure now and then to entertain my Readers with a *Moral* Subject, or ſome uſeful Part of *Criticiſm*, and the *Belles Lettres*, ſuch at leaſt of them as have not of late been touch'd upon; unleſs I am happily prevented in this Part of my Undertaking, by the Appearance of an abler Pen, who may juſtly lay claim to this Subject, and wholly engroſs it to himſelf: whom neither the Clamours of new Friends, nor the Deluſions of an ill-grounded Hope, may prevail upon to break through the Tyes of Gratitude, to violate the moſt ſolemn Promiſes, and diſoblige the better half of Mankind, only for the ſake of quitting this Subject for a worſe; or, which is yet more abſurd, proſtituting it to the Service of a Faction, a *Sheet* in whoſe Favour is enough to ſtain a whole *Volume*.

Whilſt I am acquainting the *Reader* after what manner I intend to *Inſtruct* and *Reform* others, I would not be ſo underſtood as to debar my ſelf from the Satisfaction now and then of *Diverting* them. Whilſt I keep *Horace*'s Rule in View, *To Laugh and ſpeak Truth at the ſame Time*, I ſhall take the Liberty of Addreſſing to that Faculty in Man, which next to his Reaſon is a Proof of his Humanity. Perhaps too it may be expected from me, that I ſhould pay ſome Regard to the good Humour of the *Reader*, who am ſo much Indebted to his good Nature. This way of Treating ſome of thoſe Subjects, which it is very likely will fall to my Share, is not the Reſult of a Propenſity that way, either in my Muſcles or my Conſtitution, which are rather Solemn than Jocoſe or Riſible; but naturally ariſes from a juſt Conſideration of the Matter I am to proceed upon, which muſt afford ſeveral extraordinary Opportunities of exerting this Faculty in its greateſt Perfection. The Art of *being Dull by Deſign*, is ſo trite and ſtale, that I am in ſome doubt with my ſelf, whether I ſhall diſtinguiſh this *Paper* by any Improvements of that kind; the rather, becauſe I am almoſt fix'd in my Reſolution, not to fall ſhort of that Standard of Wit, which ſome of thoſe Great Men, who lately Govern'd us, have been pleaſed to aſſign. And to avoid any ſuch Imputation, when my Works grow empty of every thing elſe, I intend, according to laudable Cuſtom, and ſome great Precedents, to fill it with *my Self*. As I find that Day draws near, I ſhall give the World fair Warning, and full Liberty to make uſe of this Conceſſion againſt me, in as ample a manner as they in their Wiſdoms ſhall think fit.

Thus I have laid before the *Reader* my future Deſigns, and what he is to expect from me. Having no Intereſt in the *JUNTA*, or the *KIT-CAT*, I do not know but I may ſhortly form a Project for erecting ſome new Society, excluſive of *Lords* and *Aldermen*, where I may be admitted to carry on a *Retale Trade*; for I can aſſure thoſe, who may be ſorry to hear it, that for the compleating all theſe mighty Preparations, I do not depend upon the Strength of my own Abilities, but the Number and Goodneſs of my *Correſpondents*.

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† The Biſhop of Oxford's Charge conſider'd, in Reference to the Independency of the Church upon the State. A proper Sacrifice in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Neceſſity and Nature of Sacerdotal Abſolution, and the Invalidity of Baptiſm, adminiſter'd by Perſons not Epiſcopally Ordain'd. In an humble Addreſs to his Lordſhip. By the Author of Lay-Baptiſm invalid. Printed for Henry Clements, at the Half Moon in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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*** This* PAPER *will come out every* Monday *and* Friday.

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